

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims to read as shown below. This listing of claims will replace all previous versions and listings of claims in the application.

1-19. (Previously Canceled)

20. (Currently Amended) A method for carrying out an electronic transaction, ~~having the following steps comprising:~~

performing a data interchange between a first network subscriber node and a second network subscriber node with a first terminal at the first network subscriber node via a first communication network for stipulating transaction data for the transaction;

~~inputting~~ receiving an identification number for a second terminal at the first network subscriber node ~~[[in]]~~ that communicates via a second communication network, different than the first communication network, into the first terminal at the first network subscriber node ~~by via the first network subscriber node;~~

transmitting the identification number and the transaction data from the first network subscriber node to a third network subscriber node via a third communication network;

verifying the validity of the identification number by the third network subscriber node, and identifying an associated service provider node from a plurality of service provider nodes registered with the third network subscriber node using the identification number, said associated service provider node comprising a mobile ~~radio~~ telephone provider node;

transmitting the verified identification number and the transaction data from the third network subscriber node to the associated service provider node via a fourth communication network;

reserving a credit stipulated by the ~~transmitted~~ transaction data at the associated service provider node for the second network subscriber node by debiting an account at the first network subscriber node, which account is managed at the associated service provider node, and confirming the reserved credit by the associated service provider node to the third network subscriber node via the fourth communication network;

generating a transaction number and transmitting ~~[[a]]~~ the generated transaction number from the third network subscriber node to the second terminal at the first network subscriber node via the second communication network;

~~inputting receiving the transmitted~~ an input transaction number ~~[[into]]~~ at the first terminal at the first network subscriber node and transmitting the input transaction number to the third network subscriber node via the third communication network;

verifying the ~~transmitted~~ input transaction number by the third network subscriber node by comparing ~~[[it]]~~ the input transaction number with the generated transaction number ~~generated previously by the third network subscriber node; and~~

in response to a successful verification of the input transaction number:

confirming the credit reserved by the associated service provider node by the third network subscriber node to the second network subscriber node via the third communication network;

confirming conclusion of the transaction by the second network subscriber node to the third network subscriber node via the third communication network;

confirming conclusion of the transaction by the third network subscriber node to the associated service provider node via the fourth communication network; and

posting the reserved credit ~~reserved~~ to the second network subscriber node via the associated service provider node.

21. (Currently Amended) A method for carrying out an electronic transaction, ~~having the following steps comprising:~~

performing a data interchange between a first network subscriber node and a second network subscriber node with a first terminal at the first network subscriber node via a first communication network for stipulating transaction data for the transaction;

~~inputting~~ receiving an identification number for a second terminal at the first network subscriber node ~~[[in]]~~ that communicates via a second communication network, different than the first communication network, into the first terminal at the first network subscriber node ~~via the first network subscriber node;~~

transmitting the identification number and the transaction data from the first network subscriber node to a third network subscriber node via a third communication network;

verifying the validity of the identification number by the third network subscriber node, and identifying an associated service provider node from a plurality of service provider nodes registered with the third network subscriber node using the identification number, said associated service provider node comprising a mobile ~~radio~~ telephone provider node;

transmitting the verified identification number and the transaction data from the third network subscriber node to the associated service provider node via a fourth communication network;

reserving a credit stipulated by the ~~transmitted~~ transaction data at the associated service provider node for the second network subscriber node by debiting an account at the first network subscriber node, which account is managed at the associated service provider node, and confirming the reserved credit by the associated service provider node to the third network subscriber node via the fourth communication network;

generating a transaction number and transmitting ~~[[a]]~~ the generated transaction number from the associated service provider node to the second terminal at the first network subscriber node via the second communication network;

~~inputting~~ receiving ~~the transmitted~~ an input transaction number ~~[[into]]~~ at the first terminal at the first network subscriber node and transmitting the input transaction number to the third network subscriber node via the third communication network;

forwarding the ~~transmitted~~ input transaction number from the third network subscriber node to the associated service provider node via the fourth communication network;

verifying the ~~transmitted~~ input transaction number by the associated service provider node by comparing ~~[[it]]~~ the input transaction number with the generated transaction number ~~generated previously by the associated service provider node; and~~
in response to a successful verification of the input transaction number;

confirming the verified transaction number by the associated service provider node to the third network subscriber node via the fourth communication network;

confirming the credit reserved by the associated service provider node by the third network subscriber node to the second network subscriber node via the third communication network;

confirming conclusion of the transaction by the second network subscriber node to the third network subscriber node via the third communication network;

confirming conclusion of the transaction by the third network subscriber node to the associated service provider node via the fourth communication network; and

posting the reserved credit ~~reserved~~ to the second network subscriber node via the associated service provider node.

22. (Previously Canceled)

23. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 20, ~~characterized in that~~
wherein at least one of the identification number, ~~[[and]]~~ the transaction data, ~~are~~
~~transmitted and/or~~ and the input transaction number is transmitted from the first network subscriber node to the third network subscriber node indirectly via the second network subscriber node.

24. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 20, ~~characterized in that~~
wherein at least one of the identification number, ~~[[and]]~~ the transaction data, ~~are~~
~~transmitted and/or~~ and the input transaction number is transmitted from the first network subscriber node to the third network subscriber node directly.

25. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 20, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the transaction data comprises at least one of a purchase price and a product specification.

26. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 20, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the second communication network [[is]] comprises one of a mobile radio network [[or]] and a landline telephone network, and the identification number [[is]] comprises one of a mobile radio number or a landline telephone number.

27. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 20, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein at least one of the first ~~and/or~~ and third communication network(s) is/are networks comprises the Internet.

28. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 20, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the fourth communication network [[is]] comprises a landline telephone network.

29. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 20, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the transaction number [[has]] comprises one of a one-off validity ~~and/or~~ and a time limit for [[the]] validity.

30. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 20, ~~characterized in that if the verification or the confirmation of the reservation or the verification of the transaction number fails then~~ wherein the third network subscriber node transmits an error message to the second network subscriber node via the third communication network in response to one of (a) a failure of the verification of the input transaction number by the third network subscriber node and (b) a failure of the confirmation of the credit reserved by the associated service provider node by the third subscriber node.

31. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 20, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the verification verifying the validity of the identification number and the

~~identification~~ identifying the associated service provider node comprises an ~~are performed by means of~~ electronic comparison with a table file.

32. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 20, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein if the ~~confirmation does not occur~~ credit is not confirmed within a prescribed period then the reserved credit is deleted.

33. (Previously Canceled)

34. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 20, ~~characterized in that if the verification of the transaction number or the confirmation fails then~~ wherein the third network subscriber node transmits an error message to the associated service provider node to delete the reserved credit via the fourth communication network ~~instead of the confirmation~~ in response to an unsuccessful verification of the input transaction number.

35. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 20, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the ~~reservation is made on the basis of~~ credit is reserved a credit rating check at the associated service provider node.

36. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 20, ~~characterized in that if the verification and identification or the confirmation fail then~~ wherein the second network subscriber node ~~[[asks]]~~ prompts the first network subscriber node for reinput of the input transaction number a limited number of times from the third network subscriber node in response to a failure of the verification of the input transaction number by the third network subscriber node.

37. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 23, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the generated transaction number is transmitted by ~~SMS~~ short message service.

38. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 20, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the first network subscriber node ~~[[is]]~~ comprises an end customer node, the

second network subscriber node ~~[[is]]~~ comprises a provider node, and the third network subscriber node ~~[[is]]~~ comprises a coordinator node.

39. (Canceled)

40. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 21, ~~characterized in that~~
wherein the reserved credit reserved is invoiced to the first network subscriber node by
~~means~~ one of a later mobile radio invoice ~~[[or]]~~ and a prepaid card.